

# 2017 National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Dataset Report

## National Register of Historic Places

### Introduction:

This report aggregates information related to the National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) in the title above. In order to be designated an NGDA, the dataset must meet the criteria outlined in the Office of Management and Budget [OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance](#). The guidance also directs Federal agencies to implement and use a portfolio management approach to ensure NGDA Datasets are managed by officially designated agencies, on behalf of all users, as national capital assets. As part of this process, the NGDA Dataset Managers regularly assess the maturity of their NGDA Datasets based on the [geospatial data lifecycle](#) and agency business requirements. All NGDA Datasets are assessed uniformly using a set of benchmark questions and a maturity index. This report includes results from the 2017 Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) which will be used to inform NGDA Dataset Managers about priorities and will be aggregated into a Theme Summary Report for NGDA Theme Leads.

### NGDA Dataset Details:

**Official Title:** National Register of Historic Places

**Metadata Record Title\*:** [National Register of Historic Places - National Geospatial Data Asset \(NGDA\) NPS National Register Dataset](#)

**Theme:** Cultural Resources

**Dataset Lead Agency:** U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service

#### Theme Executive Champion(s):

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#### Theme Lead(s):

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#### Dataset Manager(s):

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*\* If the metadata has been updated and re-harvested after publication of this report, the link may no longer be valid. The NGDA Dataset may be searched for manually in Data.gov or GeoPlatform.gov using the metadata record title.*

## 2017 Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA)

Reporting on the status of each NGDA Dataset is an OMB requirement, and assessing the developmental maturity of the NGDA provides managers the ability to support NGDA Datasets in a more universal and transparent manner. The LMA is based on the OMB Circular A-16 seven stages of the [geospatial data lifecycle](#) with associated benchmark activities for each stage. Each benchmark has a range of activities, from no activity to significant activity, which provide the interpretation of maturity for that benchmark. The cumulative level of activity determines the maturity of the each NGDA Dataset and is based on a [Maturity Matrix](#) and [How to Calculate Maturity](#). Additional information can be found at the GeoPlatform.gov [2017 Lifecycle Maturity Assessment \(LMA\)](#) community web page.

## 2017 LMA Questions and Responses

The 2017 LMA includes a series of questions about the benchmark activities within each lifecycle stage, an explanation of specific actions that might be used to accomplish the benchmark activity (clarifying statements), and a series of status metrics in the form of response options. The NGDA Dataset Manager selects the response option that most accurately describes the current maturity level for the NGDA they manage. The responses to all the questions, and their associated metrics, collectively determine the overall maturity of an individual NGDA. The 2017 LMA consists of 3 general questions and 20 maturity questions. An additional 12 questions justify response choices to the 20 maturity questions. The questions are organized across the seven stages of the [geospatial data lifecycle](#) or pertain to all lifecycle stages. The detailed 2017 LMA questions can be found in the [National Geospatial Dataset Asset 2017 Lifecycle Maturity Assessment](#) document.

### General Questions for All Stages

#### **0) Part 1: Is this dataset considered "active" or "static"?**

Response: The dataset is considered active - the dataset is being actively updated and maintained and has active components in some or all of the 7 Lifecycle Stages (with the exception of the Archival Stage)

#### **0) Part 2: For the 2017 LMA, please provide what time frame the assessment includes?**

Response: For an NGDA that completed the baseline assessment, responses include dataset activities from 2015 to 2017

#### **0) Part 3: Do you have a process to evaluate the dataset to determine if it continues to meet the criteria established for a National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA)?**

Response: Yes

#### **1) Is there a recurring process to obtain funding for all lifecycle stages of this dataset?**

Response: No process to obtain funding exists (Please explain)

Justification: There does not currently exist any designated funding to specifically support all Lifecycle Stages. Staffing for Data Manager support role is an FTE position with priority of duties assigned to tasks other than those defined by the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance documents for the National Register of Historic Places dataset.

#### **3) Are there processes and tools in place so that staff are sufficiently knowledgeable to ensure the continuity of the dataset for all stages of the lifecycle, especially during staffing transition?**

Response: Under development

## STAGE 1 - Define/Plan

*Characterization of data requirements based upon business-driven user needs.*

### **4) Are business requirements defined and formalized?**

Response: Under development

### **5) Are there processes in place to ensure partners and stakeholders are involved in requirements collection?**

Response: Developed, documented, and implementation started

### **5.a) To justify your response to Question 5, which external partners and stakeholders are involved in the requirements collection process?**

Federal agency - Partners and stakeholders are participants from other federal agencies

### **6) Is there a quality assurance process for the dataset?**

Response: Under development

### **6.a) To justify your response to Question 6, what methods are used to develop and complete quality assurance assessments?**

Internal quality assurance assessment - A defined review process is undertaken by agency personnel through quality evaluation, testing, or other manual or automated methods

### **7) Has an assessment been done to evaluate the sensitivity, privacy, and confidentiality of this dataset?**

Response: Fully implemented including recurring assessments

### **8) Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or rendering the data?**

Response: Fully implemented including recurring assessments

### **8.a) To justify your response to Question 8, what types of data standards are used in collection, processing, and/or rendering the data?**

Standards not endorsed by FGDC in use: NPS Cultural Resources Spatial Data Transfer Standards:  
<https://irma.nps.gov/App/Reference/Profile/2206878>

## STAGE 2 - Inventory/Evaluate

*The creation and publication of a detailed list of data assets and data gaps (both internal and external) as they relate to business-driven user need.*

### **9) Is an assessment done to determine if data necessary to meet requirements already exists from other sources (either within or outside the agency) before collecting or acquiring new data?**

Response: Under development (Please explain)

Justification: National Register data may or may not be stored in GIS format by State Historic Preservation Offices.

Surveys of offices have been taken to assess the state of SHPO digital inventories. However, data collected at state-level may be different than at federal NPS level due to varied reporting requirements. The National Register Information System database is the only existing resource for data meeting the reporting requirements of the agency. No formal agreements are currently in place with SHPOs to update the NPS spatial dataset with improved quality data at the state level, though informal agreements with limited state offices are being developed.

**9.a) To justify your response to Question 9, what actions are performed to determine if data already exists from other sources?**

Internal research and evaluation - The lead federal agency conducts research to identify whether other potential sources and datasets exist, including GeoPlatform.gov Marketplace research

External research and evaluation - External stakeholders and partners conduct research to identify whether other potential sources and datasets exist

**STAGE 3 - Obtain**

*The collection, purchase, conversion, transformation, sharing, exchanging, or creation of geospatial data that were selected to meet the business needs is identified.*

**10) Is there a process for obtaining data for this dataset?**

Response: Under development

**10.a) To justify your response to Question 10, what actions are performed to obtain data?**

Obtain data by modifying, converting, or transforming data

Obtain data by sharing/exchanging

Obtain data by creating and/or collecting the data

**11) Is the metadata in an FGDC-endorsed geospatial metadata standard, follows the NGDA Metadata Guidelines, and is published?**

Response: Published and fully implemented NGDA Metadata Guidelines including recurring assessment of the metadata

**12) Part 1: Is there a business process in place to determine the geographic coverage of the dataset and establish milestones to track progress towards completion?**

Response: Fully implemented including recurring assessments

**12) Part 2: Based on the business requirements, what is the estimated completeness of the geographic coverage?**

Response: Geographic coverage is fully complete (100%) based on business requirements

**12.a) To justify your response to Question 12 Part 2, what is the geographic coverage of the dataset as defined by the business requirements?**

Response: Global coverage (US 50 States + territory(ies) geographic extents) - Geographic coverage is all 50 States and territories around the globe at the applicable resolution(s)

**STAGE 4 - Access**

*Making data produced known and retrievable to the community through documentation and discovery mechanisms so the users can meet their business requirements.*

**13) Do you provide users access to the data in a digital machine-readable format?**

Response: Implementation progressing

**13.a) To justify your response to Question 13, what types of digital machine-readable formatted web services or data download services are available for this dataset?**

ArcGIS Map Server  
GDB - File Geodatabase

**STAGE 5 - Maintain**

*The ongoing processes and procedures to ensure that the data meet business requirements.*

**14) Is there a maintenance process in place for this dataset?**

Response: Under development

**15) Is there a quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) process as part of this dataset's maintenance?**

Response: Under development

**STAGE 6 - Use/Evaluate**

*The ongoing assessment, validation, and potential enhancement of data to meet user needs and business requirements.*

**16) Is there a process to determine if the dataset meets user needs?**

Response: No process exists (Please explain)

Justification: Currently, the authoritative dataset related to National Register data is within the National Register

Information Systems database itself, not the spatial data generated by CRGIS. We receive ad hoc feedback on the spatial data from the public and government agencies but no formal process has been created to address user needs.

**17) Is there a process to provide users information on how to evaluate and properly use the dataset?**

Response: Fully implemented including recurring assessments

**18) Do the business processes and management practices include an assessment of changing technology?**

Response: Under development

**STAGE 7 - Archive**

*Facilitate the selection/appraisal retention, storage, preservation and accessibility of geospatial content with long-term value (or the disposition of material as appropriate) and establish mechanisms for the coordinated development of stewardship tools and services across all impacted Federal agencies.*

**19) Is there an archiving appraisal process for the dataset?**

Response: No archival appraisal process is in place or in development (Please explain)

Justification: Formalized archival and disposition process have not been identified or implemented.

## LMA Submission and Reviewer Information

### LMA Submission:

**Status:** Complete  
**Date:** 6/20/2017

### Submitted by:

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### Reviewed by:

**Name:** Deidre McCarthy  
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**Date:** 5/10/2017

**Name:** Deidre McCarthy  
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**Date:** 5/10/2017

## LMA Maturity Overview

Each of the 20 maturity question responses was assigned a maturity level based on a [Maturity Matrix](#). The maximum level of maturity (Optimized; Established) is level (5) and the least level of maturity (No Activity) is level (0). The question response maturity was then averaged across each lifecycle stage to determine the stage maturity as described in [How to Calculate Maturity](#). The table below shows the numerical maturity levels with their corresponding descriptions and characteristics.

Maturity	Maturity Characteristics for All Lifecycle Stages
<b>Optimized; Established Level = 5</b>	Dataset meets virtually all business needs of all users. The dataset is considered authoritative by owners and secondary users. It is curated across all stages of the approved lifecycle. Future needs are defined for both the primary owner and secondary users on a regular basis and resources for addressing both current and future business requirements are available.
<b>Mature; Consistent Level = 4</b>	Dataset meets all the business needs of the primary owner and most of the secondary users. The dataset is curated and used as an authoritative resource by the primary owner and secondary users. Future needs are being identified and steps are planned to address these. All stages are supported and reviewed on a recurring basis. The dataset is well managed in relation to the approved lifecycle.
<b>Managed; Predictable Level = 3</b>	Dataset meets a significant number of the business needs of the primary owner and is widely used by secondary users. Benchmark activities are occurring in at least four of the approved lifecycle stages. Management practices in relation to the approved lifecycle is moderate but consistent. Dataset is integrating changing business requirements in lifecycle stages impacting overall maturity.
<b>Transition; Transformation Level = 2</b>	Dataset meets business needs of the primary owner and has moderate use by secondary users. Benchmark activities are occurring in at least three stages. Efforts to integrate funding, include partners, and obtain data are not supported in a sustained manner. Management practices in relation to the stages of the approved lifecycle is limited.
<b>Planned; Initial Development Level = 1</b>	Dataset in initial planning or limited in meeting business needs of the primary owner. Benchmark activities in the approved lifecycle are just starting to consider secondary uses, Partners/stakeholders involvement is being defined and developed to support additional dataset uses. Dataset development is in a very early stage. Minimal or limited management against the benchmarks in the approved lifecycle.
<b>No Activity Level = 0</b>	Dataset not developed or meets project/local business needs of the primary owner. Secondary, additional uses, or partners/stakeholders were not considered. Dataset is not recognized as authoritative data or is part of a similar dataset. Not managed to any of the benchmarks in the approved lifecycle.

**Table 1: 2017 Maturity Matrix.**

## 2017 NGDA Dataset Maturity Results

Based on the maturity question responses, an overall maturity level was calculated for this NGDA, along with maturity calculations for the general questions for all stages and each discrete lifecycle stage as shown in Table 2 below.

Maturity Categories	Maturity Level
Overall NGDA Maturity	2 - Transition; Transformation
General Questions for All Stages	1 - Planned; Initial Development
Stage 1: Plan/Define	3 - Managed; Predictable
Stage 2: Inventory/Evaluate	1 - Planned; Initial Development
Stage 3: Obtain	4 - Mature; Consistent
Stage 4: Access	3 - Managed; Predictable
Stage 5: Maintain	1 - Planned; Initial Development
Stage 6: Use/Evaluate	2 - Transition; Transformation
Stage 7: Archive	0 - No Activity

Table 2: 2017 Maturity Results.

## LMA Process Changes Between 2015 and 2017

In 2015, a baseline assessment of National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA) was performed for each of the NGDA Datasets in the federal geospatial portfolio. Information related to the 2015 baseline LMA can be found at [2015 NGDA Lifecycle Maturity Assessment](#), which also includes a link to the 2015 Reports. A follow up analysis of the 2015 LMA baseline process and its results identified ways to improve the LMA workflow, increase efficiency as well as decrease reporting burden. Several recommendations were identified and implemented in 2017, which included improvements to normalize the responses in 2017. A secondary effect of improvements to normalization is that results from 2017 and 2015 are not directly comparable. These changes, and their impacts, are detailed in the webpage: [Temporal Changes in Lifecycle Maturity Assessment \(LMA\) Maturity and Results Comparisons](#).